

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00219 051437Z
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SUBJ: SICILIAN PCI PREPARES FOR MID-APRIL REGIONAL CONGRESS
REF: PALERMO 0138

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT PCI PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES HAVE FEATURED RESPONSES BY PARTY LEADERSHIP TO GRASS ROOTS GRUMBLING ABOUT DC-PCI "CONFRONTO". IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEADERS HAVE CITED PROGRESS IN MAKING PCI PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE AND HAVE STRESSED FACT THAT CURRENT GOVERNMENT ROLE OF SICILIAN PCI IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN ITS NUMBERS SHOULD ALLOW 22 PERCENT IN LAST LOCAL VOTE). LOCAL RESULTS REFLECT ISLAND-WIDE PATTERN IN WHICH NON-SICILIAN PCI PRO-CONSULS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY YOUNGER, INDIGENOUS LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE SICILIAN PCI STAGED ITS IMPORTANT PALERMO PROVINCIAL CONGRESS AT THE DECIDEDLY NON-PROLETARIAN VILLA IGIEA HOTEL, MARCH 25-27. CONCURRENT CONGRESSES - WITH SIMILAR DEBATE AND RESULTS - WERE HELD THE SAME WEEKEND IN CATANIA AND CALTANISSETTA. THE PARTY'S REGIONAL CONGRESS IS REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR MID-APRIL AND WILL BE PRECEDED BY A PARTY MEETING ON SICILIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. LOCAL PRESS AND OTHER COVERAGE OF PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES AND PARTICULARLY OF PRE-CONGRESS PARTY SECTION MEETINGS (ALL OF WHICH ARE NOW REPORTEDLY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC) STRESSED RANK-AND-FILE DOUBTS ABOUT MEAGER RESULTS SO FAR OF DC-PCI "CONFRONTO" AND FEAR THAT PCI NOW SERVING AS AN ACQUIESCENT COVER FOR BAD, BUSINESS-AS-USUAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER DC LEADERSHIP.

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4. PRIMARY EFFORT AT PALERMO CONGRESS TO COUNTER THESE ACCUSATIONS WAS MADE BY PARTY NATIONAL DIRECTORATE MEMBER GIANCARLO PAJETTA WHO STRESSED CONCESSIONS NATIONAL "CONFRONTO" HAD EXTRACTED FROM ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT AND FACT THAT VISCERAL "ANTI-COMMUNISM" IS NOW LARGELY A THING OF THE PAST. PAJETTA ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN AND THAT MUCH MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE. PCI, THEREFORE, IS ATTEMPTING TO QUICKEN TEMPO OF ITS PACE TOWARD POWER

WHILE REMAINING A PARTY OF BOTH "STRUGGLE AND GOVERNMENT".

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5. PALERMO FEDERATION SECRETARY NINO MANNINO WENT BEYOND PAJETTA BY CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING "CONFRONTO" WHICH, HE SAID, HAD MADE PCI THE ARBITER OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

6. IMPACT OF ABOVE DEBATING POINTS COULD NOT BE DIVINED FROM FINAL RESULTS WHICH CONFIRMED IN POWER MANNINO AND HIS FOUR CLOSEST COLLABORATORS LATTER ARE ALL UNDER 30). PALERMO RESULTS PARALLEL SIMILAR REJUVENATION IN OTHER SICILIAN PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES TO DATE. SIMILARLY, RECENT CONGRESSES APPEAR TO MARK END OF RECENT PCI POLICY OF RUNNING SICILIAN PARTY WITH OUTSIDERS. THUS REGIONAL SECRETARY ACCHILLE' OCCHETTO A PIEDMONTESE) IS RUMORED TO BE SCHEDULED FOR REPLACEMENT AT THE REGIONAL CONGRESS BY HIS CURRENT DEPUTY GIANNI PARISI, WHO IS COLORLESS BUT SICILIAN. AT THE CATANIA CONGRESS, GIULIO QUERCINI A TUSCAN) WAS REPLACED AS PROVINCIAL SECRETARY BY ANTONIO LEONARDI, A 33-YEAR OLD SICILIAN.

7. OF ADDITIONAL. STATISTICAL INTEREST, WAS 1972-77 PARTY MEMBERSHIP INCREASE FROM 13,000 TO 14,500 AND SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF THE 325 PALERMO CONGRESS DELEGATES: 57 WORKERS, 88 STUDENTS. 4 "PEASANTS", 11 PARTY FUNCTIONARIES, 32 UNION OFFICIALS, 14 TECHNICIANS.

5 HOUSEWIVES, 7 PENSIONERS, 4 ARTISANS, 82 OFFICE EMPLOYEES, 19

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TEACHERS, 2 MERCHANTS; AVERAGE AGE: 33.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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